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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1853.

LITERATURE.

TAYLOR'S NOTES FROM LIFE.*

A DIDACTIC poet cuts down into a generous essayist. The author of "Philip Van Artevelde" has given us, in his "Notes from Life," the results of a keen, sagacious insight into the affairs of the world, expressed with a brevity and penetrative style, for which he may be mainly indebted to his studies as a dramatist. No one is bound by his profession to look more deeply into life than the dramatic author. He must seek effects in their causes and wide-spreading influences; his aphorism must carry demonstration with its brief appeal. It must strike on the instant, and leave its arrow in the mind. Of such pregnant truths this book is full, in the wisdom of a philosopher and student of the world, with such topics under discussion as Money, Humanity and Independence, Marriage, Wisdom, Children, the Life Poetic, Ways of the Rich and Great.

Of the many fruitful suggestions of the volume take this paragraph touching the small business of a parish:—

"It is not impossible that, from time to time, it may require the same species of ability as the business of an empire, and exercise the same faculties in its adjustment; for the amount of prudence and sagacity needful for the successful transaction of business depends comparatively little on the scale of operation. Sometimes, indeed, the larger the scale the easier the task."

There is a vast deal of neglected truth in this little remark. How often we are misled by the "scale of the operation." In the estimation of public men the error is of every-day occurrence. The man is pronounced great, because he is acting on a great stage. But there is less reason to consider him great in that position, or rather, his greatness should be looked more suspiciously at from the confusion of the lights, the distance, and the noise of the vast theatre. Every-day vices are mistaken in so-called great men. Take the admiration bestowed upon the recent French *coup d'état*, and reduce its fraud and force to the scoundrelism of private life, alter the scale, and where is the hero?—at the bar of the petty sessions.

There is an unsparing sense and shrewdness, bringing the weaknesses of life to the test of its duties, in passages like this—which reads like a gloss by some ancient Judean on Solomon's Proverbs, much more than a sentence of this trading, speculating, failing, debt-forgiving age.

LENDING AND BORROWING.

"Never lend money to a friend, unless you are satisfied that he does wisely and well in borrowing it. Borrowing is one of the most ordinary ways in which weak men sacrifice the future to the present, and thence it is that the gratitude for a loan is so proverbially evanescent: for the future, becoming present in its turn, will not be well pleased with those who have assisted in doing it an injury. By conspiring with your friend to defraud his future self, you naturally incur his future displeasure. Take to heart, therefore, the admonition of the ancient courtier:—

"Neither a borrower nor a lender be;
For loan oft loseth both itself and friend,
And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry."

"To withstand solicitations for loans is often a great trial of firmness; the more especially

* Notes from Life in Seven Essays. By Henry Taylor. Ticknor, Reed, & Fields.

as the pleas and pretexts alleged are generally made plausible at the expense of truth; for nothing breaks down a man's truthfulness more surely than pecuniary embarrassment:—

"An unthrift was a liar from all time;
Never was debtor that was not deceiver."

The refusal which is at once the most safe from vacillation, and perhaps as little apt to give offence as any, is the point blank refusal, without reasons assigned. Acquiescence is more easily given in the decisions of a strong will, than in reasons, which weak men, under the bias of self-love, will always imagine themselves competent to controvert.

"Some men will lend money to a friend in order, as it were, to purchase a right of remonstrance: but the right so purchased is worth nothing. You may buy the man's ears, but not his heart or his understanding.

"I have never known a debtor or a prodigal who was not, in his own estimation, an injured man; and I have generally found that those who had not suffered by them were disposed to side with them; for it is the weak who make an outcry, and it is by the outcry that the world is wont to judge. They who lend money to spendthrifts should be prepared, therefore, to suffer in their reputation as well as in their purse. Let us learn from the Son of Sirach:—'Many, when a thing was lent them, reckoned it to be found, and put them to trouble that helped them. Till he hath received, he will kiss a man's hand; and for his neighbor's money he will speak submissly; but when he should repay, he will prolong the time, and return words of grief, and complain of the time. If he prevail he shall hardly receive the half, and he will count as if he had found it; if not, he hath deprived him of his money, and he hath gotten him an enemy without cause; he payeth him with cursing and railings, and for honor he will pay him with disgrace.'

The descending course of the bankrupt is then traced, till the subject is summed up with the conclusion, "that insolvent debt should be regarded as presumably criminal, and unless proved to be otherwise, should fall within the visitations of penal law." What degree of penalty or mode of punishment should be inflicted, Mr. Taylor does not inform us. The "proved to be otherwise," however, opens a large concession to the commercial necessities and liabilities of the age.

There is a curious instance of the deference even of the philosophic mind to local circumstances, in Mr. Taylor's view of the custom of primogeniture. He defends it as a benefit to the majority of the children; so that it turns out after all to be a kind of democratic institution. It is curious to read:

"In saving for younger children, the parent has to consider what is a competency; and if he be wise, and can count upon an average share of health and abilities in his younger sons, he will not relieve them from the necessity of earning the main part of their livelihood; for unless a man's property be large enough to find an occupation in the management of it, and in the discharge of the duties incident to it (which, generally speaking, can only be the case of the eldest son), it will be essential to his happiness that he should have to work for his bread. And it is on this fact that the custom of succession, according to primogeniture, is to be defended; for if any one is sacrificed by this custom, it is rather the eldest than the younger sons; the eldest being too often pampered into self-love,—the most wretched inheritance of all,—the younger being trained in self-sacrifice, fortified into self-reliance, and through industry and progress leading a wiser, a better, a more generous, and a happier life."

There are some profitable suggestions on SPENDING MONEY.

"The art of living easily as to money, is to pitch your scale of living one degree below your means. Comfort and enjoyment are more dependent upon easiness in the detail of expenditure, than upon one degree's difference in the scale.

"Guard against false associations of pleasure with expenditure,—the notion that because pleasure can be purchased with money, therefore money cannot be spent without enjoyment. What a thing costs a man is no true measure of what it is worth to him; and yet how often is his appreciation governed by no other standard, as if there were a pleasure in expenditure *per se*.

"Let yourself feel a want before you provide against it. You are more assured that it is a real want; and it is worth while to feel it a little, in order to feel the relief from it.

"When you are undecided as to which of two courses you would like best, choose the cheapest. This rule will not only save money, but save also a good deal of trifling indecision.

"Too much leisure leads to expense; because when a man is in want of objects, it occurs to him that they are to be had for money; and he invents expenditures in order to pass the time."

In a passing notice of Southey, of whom Mr. Taylor can speak with the fullest authority, we get a different notion of the pecuniary profits of that great literary toiler's life, from that generally entertained:

SOUTHEY'S MONEY MAKING.

"Having been almost the only resource of one who was at once an eminent poet, and in general literature the most distinguished writer of his age, Mr. Southey, his example may be fairly adduced as showing what can be made of it under the most favourable circumstances. By a small pension and the office of laureate (yielding together about £200 per annum), he was enabled to ensure his life, so as to make a moderate posthumous provision for his family; and it remained for him to support himself and them, so long as he should live, by his writings. With unrivalled industry, infinite stores of knowledge, extraordinary talents, a delightful style, and the devotion of about one half of his time to writing what should be marketable rather than what he would have desired to write, he defrayed the cost of that frugal and homely way of life which he deemed to be the happiest and the best. So far it may be said that all was well; and certainly never was man more contented with a humble lot than he. But at sixty years of age he had never yet had one year's income in advance; and when between sixty and seventy his powers of writing failed, had it not been for the timely grant of an additional pension, his means of subsistence would have failed too. It was owing to this grant alone, that the last years of a life of such literary industry as was the wonder of his time, were not harassed by pecuniary difficulties; and at his death the melancholy spectacle was presented, of enormous preparations thrown away, one great labour of his life half finished, and other lofty designs which had been cherished in his heart of hearts from youth to age, either merely inchoate or altogether unattempted."

"We mourn over the lost books of Tacitus and Pliny, and rake in the ruins of Herculaneum to recover them; but £300 a year—had it been given in time—might have realized for us works, over the loss of which our posterity may perhaps mourn as much or more!"

"Things incomplete, and purposes betrayed,
Make sadder transits o'er Truth's mystic glass,
Than noblest objects utterly decayed."

This brief analysis of the authors of the seventeenth century, is full of nice Coleridgian perceptions.

"In these times I think that a poet should feed chiefly (not of course exclusively) on the literature of the seventeenth century. The diction and the movement of that literature, both in verse and in what Dryden calls 'that other harmony,' are, in my apprehension, far more fitted than the literature which has followed it, to be used for the training of the mind to poetry. There was no writing public nor reading populace in that age. The age was the worse for that, but the written style of the age was the better. The writers were few and intellectual; and they addressed themselves to learned, or, at least, to studious and diligent readers. The structure of their language is in itself an evidence that they counted upon another frame of mind and a different pace and speed in reading, from that which can alone be looked to by the writers of these days. Their books were not written to be snatched up, run through, talked over, and forgotten; and their diction, therefore, was not such as lent wings to haste and impatience, making everything so clear that he who ran or flew might read. Rather it was so constructed as to detain the reader over what was pregnant and profound, and compel him to that brooding and prolific posture of the mind, by which, if he had wings, they might help him to some more genial and profitable employment than that of running like an ostrich through a desert. And hence those characteristics of diction by which these writers are made more fit than those who had followed them, to train the ear and utterance of a poet. For if we look at the long-suspended sentences of those days, with all their convolutions and intertextures—the many parts waiting for the ultimate wholeness—we shall perceive that, without distinctive movement and rhythmical significance of a very high order, it would be impossible that they could be sustained in any sort of clearness. One of these writers' sentences is often in itself a work of art, having its strophes and anti-strophes, its winding changes and recalls, by which the reader, though conscious of plural voices and running divisions of thought, is not however permitted to dissociate them from their mutual concert and dependency, but required, on the contrary, to give them entrance into his mind, opening it wide enough for the purpose, as one compact and harmonious fabric."

DINNER TABLE-CHAT IN MOORE'S DIARY.

A THIRD COURSE.

We continue our extracts from the jottings down of Thomas Moore during his quarter of a century or more of "good men's feasts."

We have seen his chatty account of Wordsworth at a table in Paris. The author of the "Excursion" turns up again in London, in April, 1823. Wordsworth must have smiled inwardly at the fashionable little poet's "electrifying assertions" in the following scene. The electricity does not appear to have produced any astonishing effect, for the Diary says the day was dull, a fact which the Diary is not apt to record when the conversational brilliancy of the author had been very successfully exhibited. This is the dinner:—

WORDSWORTH AT ROGERS'S.

"Walkei afterwards (for the first time since I came to town) to Rogers's. Very agreeable. In talking of the 'Angels,' said the subject was an unlucky one. When I mentioned Lord Lansdowne's opinion that it was better than 'Lalla Rookh,' said he would not rank it so

high as the 'Veiled Prophet' for execution, nor the 'Fireworshippers' for story and interest, but would place it rather on the level of 'Paradise and the Peri.' Asked me to dine with him, which I did; company, Wordsworth and his wife and sister-in-law, Cary (the translator of Dante), Hallam, and Sharpe. Some discussion about Racine and Voltaire, in which I startled, and rather shocked them, by saying that, though there could be no doubt of the superior taste and workmanship of Racine, yet that Voltaire's tragedies interested me the most of the two. Another electrifying assertion of mine was, that I would much rather see 'Othello' and 'Romeo and Juliet' as Italian operas, and played by *Pasta*, than the original of Shakspeare, as acted on the London stage. Wordsworth told of some acquaintance of his, who being told, among other things, to go and see the 'Chapeau de Paille' at Antwerp, said, on his return, 'I saw all the other things you mentioned, but as for the straw-hat manufactory I could not make it out.' Sharpe mentioned a curious instance of Walter Scott's indifference to pictures: when he met him at the Louvre, not willing to spare two or three minutes for a walk to the bottom of the gallery, when it was the first and last opportunity he was likely to have of seeing the 'Transfiguration,' &c., &c. In speaking of music, and the difference there is between the poetical and musical ear, Wordsworth said that he was totally devoid of the latter, and for a long time could not distinguish one tune from another. Rogers thus described Lord Holland's feeling for the arts: 'Painting gives him no pleasure, and music absolute pain.' Wordsworth's excessive praise of 'Christabel,' joined in by Cary, far beyond my comprehension. The whole day dull enough."

Three days afterwards Wordsworth does Moore the honor to invite him to his friend's house, to dinner of course, and the Diary says it was "a singular party," as indeed it appears, for there was not a lord in the company, and sincere, strong-minded men like Coleridge, Wordsworth, and Lamb were not to be met with every day among Tom Moore's favorite Jekylls and Luttrells:—

A SINGULAR PARTY.

"Dined at Mr. Monkhouse's (a gentleman I had never seen before), on Wordsworth's invitation, who lives there whenever he comes to town. A singular party: Coleridge, Rogers, Wordsworth and wife, Charles Lamb (the hero, at present, of the 'London Magazine'), and his sister (the poor woman who went mad with him in the diligence on the way to Paris), and a Mr. Robinson, one of the *minora sidera* of this constellation of the Lakes, the host himself, a *Mecenas* of the school, contributing nothing but good dinners and silence. Charles Lamb, a clever fellow certainly; but full of villainous and abortive puns, which he miscarries of every minute. Some excellent things, however, have come from him; and his friend Robinson mentioned to me not a bad one. On Robinson's receiving his first brief, he called upon Lamb to tell him of it. 'I suppose,' said Lamb, 'you addressed that line of Milton's to it, "Thou first best cause, least understood." Coleridge told some tolerable things. One of a poor author, who, on receiving from his publisher an account of the proceeds (as he expected it to be) of a work he had published, saw among the items, 'Cellarage, 3/- 10s. 6d.', and thought it was a charge for the trouble of selling the 700 copies which he did not consider unreasonable; but on inquiry he found it was for the cellar-room occupied by his work, not a copy of which had stirred from thence. He told, too, of the servant-maid where he himself had lodged, at Ramsgate, coming in to say that he was wanted, there being a person

at the door inquiring for a poet; and on his going out, he found it was a pot-boy from the public-house, whose cry, of 'any pots for the Angel,' the girl had mistaken for a demand for a poet. Improbable enough. In talking of Klopstock, he mentioned his description of the Deity's 'head spreading through space,' which, he said, gave one the idea of a hydrocephalous affection. Lamb quoted an epitaph by Clio Rickman, in which, after several lines, in the usual jog trot style of epitaph, he continued thus:—

"He well performed the husband's, father's, part,
And knew immortal Hudibras by heart."

A good deal of talk with Lamb about De Foe's works, which he praised warmly, particularly 'Colonel Jack,' of which he mentioned some striking passages. In collecting the works of the Dunciad heroes. Coleridge said that Spenser is the poet most remarkable for contrivances of versification: his spelling words differently, to suit the music of the line, putting sometimes 'spake,' sometimes 'spoke,' as it fell best on the ear, &c., &c. To show the difference in the facility of reciting verses, according as they were skilfully or unskilfully constructed, he said he had made the experiment upon Beppo and Whistlecraft (Frere's poem), and found that he could read three stanzas of the latter in the same time as two of the former. This is absurd. Talked much of Jeremy Taylor; his work upon 'Prophesying,' &c. C. Lamb told me he had got 17*l.* for his two years' contributions to the 'London Magazine' (Letters of Elia). Should have thought it more."

Poorly as the conversation and incidents of this dinner are reported, we wish that the Diary had a few more singularities of the kind.

Leaving the Lambs and the Coleridges, of whom we hear little more, we pick up a fragment of the mirth of the period which was "wont to set the table in a roar." Sheridan was always a cut-and-come-again for Moore. The Diary is open to all the floating Joe Millers which the reputation of the great practical joker attracted to his name. They have an odor, generally, of the swindler; and, with a common man, would be remarkably suggestive of oyer and terminer:—

SHERIDANIANA.

"Met Kenny with Miss Holcroft, one of his *examen domus*, a fine girl. By the bye, he told me yesterday evening (having joined us in our walk), that Shaw, having lent Sheridan near £500, used to dun him very considerably for it; and one day, when he had been rating S. about the debt, and insisting that he must be paid, the latter, having played off some of his plausible wheedling upon him, ended by saying that he was very much in want of £25 to pay the expenses of a journey he was about to take, and he knew Shaw would be good-natured enough to lend it to him. 'Pon my word,' says Shaw, 'this is too bad; after keeping me out of my money in so shameful a manner, you now have the face to ask me for more: but it won't do; I must be paid my money, and it is most disgraceful,' &c., &c. 'My dear fellow,' says Sheridan, 'hear reason: the sum you ask me for is a very considerable one; whereas I only ask you for five and twenty pounds.'

"Lord John told us a good trick of Sheridan's upon Richardson. Sheridan had been driving out three or four hours in a hackney coach, when, seeing Richardson pass, he hailed him, and made him get in. He instantly contrived to introduce a topic upon which Richardson (who was the very soul of disputatiousness) always differed with him; and at last, affecting to be mortified at R.'s arguments, said, 'You really are too bad; I cannot bear to listen to such things; I will not stay in the

same coach with you ; and accordingly got down and left him, Richardson hallooing out triumphantly after him, 'Ah, you're beat, you're beat ;' nor was it till the heat of his victory had a little cooled that he found out he was left in the lurch to pay for Sheridan's three hours' coaching."

A good story of Lady Holland's horror of the nightmare of all conversational people :—

BULLION.

"In talking of Lady Holland's management of the conversation at her table, Lord John mentioned her great dislike to the subject of bullion, and her saying once to Lord Lauderdale after an illness he had, upon his introducing this topic at Holland House, 'My dear Lauderdale, as long as you were ill, I suffered you to talk bullion, but now I really cannot suffer it any longer.' A light subject for an invalid, put upon a regimen of *bouillon* and bullion."

An excellent

LORD LANSDOWNE.

"Lord John mentioned of the late Lord Lansdowne (who was remarkable for the sententious and speech-like pomposity of his conversation) that, in giving his opinion one day of Lord —, he said, 'I have a high opinion of his lordship's character ; so remarkable do I think him for the pure and unbending integrity of his principles, that I look upon it as impossible he should ever be guilty of the slightest deviation from the line of rectitude, unless it were most damnable well worth his while.'"

A shot, that must have told in its day, from

QUEEN CAROLINE.

"A good thing in a letter I have had from Tegart, that the Queen has said she never committed adultery but once, and that was with Mrs. Fitzherbert's husband."

Various small artillery :—

MAKING A REPUTATION.

"Walked in the evening. Kenny was of the party. Told me rather a good story of Macklin. When Reynolds and Holman were both in the first dawn of their reputation, the latter wrote to Reynolds from some of the provinces, to say that he had heard Macklin had seen him one night in 'Werter' (a play of Reynolds's), and had expressed himself highly delighted with the performance. 'If you should meet him,' continued Holman, 'pray tell him how much flattered I feel, &c., &c., and how proud I shall be to continue to merit, &c., &c. Reynolds accordingly took the first opportunity to address Macklin when he met him ; but he had not gone far with 'his friend Holman's' rapturous acknowledgments, when Macklin, interrupting him, said, 'Stop, stop, sir ! before you go any further, have the goodness to tell me who are you, and who is the fellow you're talking of ?'

BAD FRENCH.

"Mrs. King (who was our companion in the *célerifère*) told us that her husband, wishing to ask for pump-water, looked in the dictionary for 'pump,' and finding *escarpin* (which means a *light shoe*), asked for *escarpin eau*."

IRISHMS.

"Had to dine with us, Harry Bushe, Douglas, and Irving. Bushe told of an Irish country squire, who used, with hardly any means, to give entertainments to the militia, &c., in his neighborhood ; and when a friend expostulated with him on the extravagance of giving claret to these fellows, when whiskey punch would do just as well, he answered, 'You are very right, my dear friend, but I have the claret on tick, and where the devil would I get credit for the *lemons* ?' Douglas mentioned the

son of some rich grazier in Ireland, whose son went on a tour to Italy, with express injunctions from the father to write to him whatever was worthy of notice. Accordingly, on his arrival in Italy, he wrote a letter beginning as follows : 'Dear Father, the Alps is a very high mountain, and bullocks bear no price.'

FRENCH CRITICISM ON SHAKSPEARE.

"A French writer mentions, as a proof of Shakspeare's attention to particulars, his allusion to the climate of Scotland in the words, 'Hail, hail, all hail !'—*grêle, grêle, tout grêle.*"

TALLEYRAND.

"Lord John told us that Bobus Smith one day, in conversation with Talleyrand, having brought in somehow the beauty of his mother, T. said, *C'étoit donc votre père qui n'étoit pas bien.*"

FOOTE AND GARRICK.

"Some pleasant conversation with Lord H. in the evening. He said that Apree (the Cadwallader of Foote) had a trick of sucking his wrist now and then with a sort of *supping* noise, in which Foote exactly imitated him. Upon this farce coming out, Apree went to Garrick for the purpose of consulting him as to the propriety of challenging Foote for the insult ; but all Garrick said was, 'My dear sir, don't think of doing any such thing ; why, he would shoot you through the guts before you had supped two oysters off your wrist.'

ANOTHER "FOOTE."

"Talked of Gen. Smith, celebrated nabob, who said, as an excuse for his bad shooting, that he had 'spoilt his hand by shooting peacocks with the Great Mogul.' Lord L. told of the same having written to put off some friends whom he had invited to his country seat, saying, 'I find my damned fellow of a steward has in the meantime sold the estate.' This Gen. Smith was the original of Foote's 'Sir Matthew Mite' (his father having been a cheesemonger) ; and Jekyll told of some one having taken Foote to Smith's country-house on their way to town ; his sleeping there, and being treated with every civility by Smith ; and saying, before they were a hundred yards from his house, 'I think I can't possibly miss him now, having had such a good sitting.'

LUTTREL'S RELIGION.

"Talking with Luttrell of religion before dinner, he mentioned somebody having said, upon being asked what religion he was, 'Me ! I am of the religion of all sensible men.' 'And what is that ?' 'Oh, sensible men never tell.' He mentioned, too, at dinner, a sort of sham problem, 'Given, the tonnage of a ship, and the course she is upon ; required, the name of the captain.'

LORD KENYON.

"At breakfast Jekyll told of some one remarking on the inaccuracy of the inscription on Lord Kenyon's tomb, *Mors janua vita* ; upon which Lord Ellenborough said, 'Don't you know that *that* was by Kenyon's express desire, as he left it in his will, that they should not go to the expense of a diphthong ?'

One dinner scene at Lord Holland's, a specimen of many, is worth giving entire. There was good talking that day in Paris, July 3, 1821 :—

A DINNER AT LORD HOLLAND'S.

"Company at the Hollands', Lambton, Lady Louisa and her sister, Lord Alvanley, Lord John, Lattin, Lord Thanet, Lord Gower, &c. Talking of Delille, Lord H. said that, notwithstanding his pretty description of Kensington Gardens, he walked with him once there, and he did not know them when he was in them. Mad. de Staél never looked at any thing ; passed by scenery of every kind without a glance at it ; which did not, however, prevent her describing it. I said that Lord Byron

could not describe anything which he had not had actually under his eyes, and that he did it either on the spot or immediately after. This, Lord Holland remarked, was the sign of a true poet, to write only from *impressions* ; but where, then, do all the imaginary scenes of Dante, Milton, &c., go, if it is necessary to see what we describe in order to be a true poet ?

Lattin mentioned that Gail, the old Greek professor here, who was a great friend of Delille's, embalmed him after his death, and varnished him, and after making a horrible figure of the poor poet, put a wreath of laurel round his head. Lord Holland mentioned having once been betrayed into a most exaggerated compliment, in saying that Virgil was lucky in meeting a poet as great as himself to translate him : to which Delille answered, *Savez-vous, milord, que ce que vous dites là est joli, mais très joli.*

Before dinner, on my remarking to Luttrell a fine effect of sunshine in the garden, which very soon passed away, he said, 'How often in life we should like to arrest our *beaux moments* ; should be so obliged to the *five minutes* if they would only stay ten.' Allen, on our talking of persons who described what they had not seen, said that Adam Smith never attended to anything that was said in conversation ; and yet (or rather, perhaps, because he did not attend) used to give the most delightful and amusing accounts of all that had been said, filling up the few outlines his ear had caught from his own imagination. Talked of the numerous editions of Voltaire now printed. By the bye, Gallois mentioned the other day, as an instance of the great increase of printing and publishing, that in Marmonet's lifetime they did not venture to publish a complete edition of his works, but printed the popular things separate from the rest, in order to facilitate the sale ; and that it took a long lapse of time, even so, to sell off the whole ; whereas, within some years past, a collection of all his works (including the *'Théâtre'*, which nobody ever reads) has gone off not only successfully, but rapidly. He granted, however, that reading has not increased in proportion, but that books are become more an article of furniture and luxury than of study. Lord Holland said that Lord Exeter burned his copy of Voltaire at the beginning of the French Revolution, and that he had been told Lord Grenville had actually turned a copy out of his library at the same time."

We shall meet with little better than this, though as Moore himself does not often appear as a wit in his own Diary, it is but fair, in concluding our notice of these most agreeable volumes, to give him one opportunity of retailing his good things at a parting dinner given to him by his friends when he left Paris in 1822 :—

WHAT MOORE SAID.

"The dinner took place at Robert's ; about fifty sat down : Lord Trimlestown in the chair : among the company were Lord Granard, Sir G. Webster, Robert Adair, &c. Collinet's band attended ; the dinner one of Robert's best ; and all went off remarkably well. In returning thanks for my health, I gave 'Prosperity to England,' with an eulogium on the moral worth of that country, which was felt more, both by myself and the company, from its being delivered in France, and produced much effect. Douglas, in proposing Bessy's health, after praising her numerous virtues, &c., &c., concluded thus :—'We need not, therefore, gentlemen, be surprised that Mr. Moore is about to communicate to the world "The Loves of the Angels," having been so long familiar with one at home.' In returning thanks for this, I mentioned the circumstance of the village bells welcoming her arrival, as being her triumph in England, while I had

mine this day in France, and concluded thus:—‘These, gentlemen, are rewards and atonements for everything. No matter how poor I may steal through life—no matter how many calamities (even heavier than that from which I have now been relieved) may fall upon me—as long as such friends as you hold out the hand of fellowship to me at parting, and the sound of honest English bells shall welcome me and mine at meeting, I shall consider myself a Cross in that best wealth, happiness, and shall lay down my head, grateful for the gifts God has given.’ In introducing the subject of the village bells, I said, ‘This is a day of vanity for me; and you, who set the fountain running, ought not to complain of its overflowing.’ Lattin proposed the health of my father and mother, and mentioned the delight he had felt in witnessing my father’s triumph at the dinner in Dublin. In returning thanks for this, I alluded to Southey’s making his Kehama enter triumphantly in through seven gates at the same moment, and said: ‘This miraculous multiplication of one gentleman into seven has been, to a great degree, effected by the toasts into which your kindness has subdivided me this day;’ concluding thus:—‘I have often, gentlemen, heard of sympathetic ink, but here is a liquid which has much better claims to that epithet; and if there is a glass of such at this moment before my good old father, it must, I think, sparkle in sympathetic reply to those which you have done him the honor of filling to him.’ In proposing the health of Richard Power (who was present), I spoke of him ‘as combining all that is manliest in man, with all that is gentlest in woman; that consistency of opinion and conduct which commands respect, with that smooth facility of intercourse which wins affection; a union, as it were, of the stem and flower of life—of the sweetness which we love, and the solidity on which we repose.’ In alluding to the charitable object of the Kilkenny Theatre, I called it ‘that happy expedient for enlisting gaiety in the cause of benevolence, and extracting from the smiles of one part of the community a warmth with which to dry up the tears of the other;’ the happiness we had enjoyed together at that time, ‘days passed in studying Shakespeare, and nights in acting or discussing him; the happy freedom of those suppers (*Tamquam sera libertas*—late enough, God knows) where, as in the suppers described by Voltaire,—

La liberté, convive aimable,
Mit les deux coudes sur la table,
Entre le plaisir et l’amour.

In proposing the health of Lord Trimlestown, spoke of his being particularly fit to take the chair at such a meeting, not only from our old acquaintance, &c., &c., but his love of literature, and ‘the success with which he had practised it; his intimate knowledge of French and English, which placed him as a sort of Janus between the two languages, with a double-fronted insight into the beauties of each, and enabled him not only to make the wild tale of Atala resound, in language worthy of its sweetness, on the banks of the Thames, but to occupy himself (as I was proud to say he was doing at present) in teaching the story of “Lalla Rookh” to the lighter echoes of the Seine.’ A song was sung by Grattan during the night, which he had written for the occasion. Left them between one and two, and went to Douglas’s, where I supped.

The last word is inimitable. The poor fellow, with all that exertion, had not supped!

THREE TALES: CHRISTINE VAN AMBERG, &c.*
One of the three tales composing this volume,
“The Village Doctor,” was republished in

this country some years ago from the pages of *Blackwood’s Magazine*. It was much admired for its pathetic beauty, and the striking yet natural character of its incidents.

“Christine Van Amberg” and “Resignation,” the other stories of the volume, will be found equal to the “Village Doctor.” Although they may not be preferred to it, they certainly exhibit the peculiar talents and spirit of their writer in a more remarkable manner. The first is a very powerful tale, though we cannot go so far in our admiration as to side with a critic quoted by Mr. Field, the translator, in his preface, who pronounces this story the finest production of modern French fiction. It is interesting in addition to its literary merit, as exhibiting the working of monastic life, depicted by one who is evidently a sympathizer. Christine, the heroine, eloping with her lover, is captured and brought back by her father, a stern domestic tyrant, who has forbidden his daughter to marry her lover, solely on account of the humbleness of his fortune. She is forced into a convent; she refuses to take the veil, and displays such an aversion to the routine of the establishment, which is one entirely of devotional exercises, and not, as in many instances, a place for education, that the superior repeatedly requests the father to take back his daughter, as one totally unfitted by temperament for so monotonous a life. He refuses to do so. The story passes over a period of five years, during which many changes have taken place. The father no longer opposes the wishes of the lover, who is still faithful. A bachelor uncle, a warm friend to Christine, visits the convent to impart this joyful news, and release the unwilling nun, yet a probationer, from her imprisonment. The following scene ensues, which we leave in the narrator’s own words:—

“A smile passed over the old man’s lips when he thought of her burst of joy when he should say to her, ‘You are free, and Herbert is waiting to lead you to the altar!’ His heart beat as it never had beaten since the days of his youth. Without his knowledge, tears escaped from his eyes: he could not tell if they were tears of sadness at the sight of the dreary place which had been for five long years Christine’s residence, or if they were tears of joy called up by the happiness of seeing her again, and delivering her; he counted the minutes, and remained with his eyes fixed upon the little door which was about to open to admit Christine. He could not press her to his heart, the grating prevented it, but at least he could hear and see her. Suddenly the blood rushed violently to his heart at the sound of a door creaking upon its hinges; this door opened. A novice, clad in white, approached William slowly; he looked, drew back, hesitated, and exclaimed:

“O God! is that Christine?”

“William had preserved affectionately in his memory the image of a young, brilliant-eyed, sun-burnt girl, lively, active, abrupt in her movements, running rather than walking, like the kid that loves the mountain steeps. He saw before him a tall young girl, pale and white as the garments which covered her; her hair was concealed by a broad band of linen; her slender figure was obscurely defined under the folds of her white woollen robes; her movements were slow; her black eyes were dimmed by an indescribable languor; a profound calm pervaded her whole person, a calm that was so great that it resembled the absence of life. One might have supposed that her eyes looked without seeing, that her lips could no longer open to speak, that her ears listened without hearing. Sister Martha-Mary

was beautiful, but of a beauty unknown to this world. Hers was the beauty of infinite repose, of changeless calm.

“The old man was affected to the bottom of his heart; the words expired upon his lips; and he extended his hand towards Christine, although he knew that they could not reach her. Martha-Mary made an effort to smile on beholding her uncle; but she neither spoke nor moved.

“O my child! William at last exclaimed; ‘oh! how you suffer here!’

“Martha-Mary gently shook her head, and the tranquil look which she fixed upon her uncle protested against his supposition.

“Is it possible that five years can have thus changed my Christine? My heart alone recognizes you, my child, and not my eyes! They have then compelled you to great austerities, terrible privations!”

“No.”

“A cruel bondage has weighed upon you?”

“No.”

“Then you have been ill?”

“No.”

“Then your poor heart has suffered so much that it has broken. You have wept much?”

“I no longer recollect it.”

“Christine, Christine, are you living? or is it the shade of Annuciata risen from the grave? O my child, when I look at you, I fancy that I see her again stretched lifeless upon the bed of death!”

“Martha-Mary raised her large eyes towards heaven; she clasped her hands and murmured:

“Mother!”

“Christine, speak to me! weep with me! you alarm me by your calm and silence.—Ah! in the emotion which has overwhelmed me, I have forgotten to explain anything to you. Listen; my brother Karl, by the bankruptcy of one of his partners, over the sea, suddenly found his whole fortune compromised. To avoid total ruin, my brother was compelled to embark immediately for the colonies. When he left, he expected to return in a few years; but now he has postponed his return indefinitely, as his business continues to render his absence necessary. He took his two elder daughters with him. To me, too old to go and join him, too old to remain alone, he has given Christine; but I did not desire to possess you, my child, without the possibility of rendering you happy. I asked earnestly permission to marry you to Herbert. You are no longer a rich heiress. The protection of an old man could not last long; your father has consented to all that I asked; he sends you, as a farewell gift, your liberty, and permission to marry Herbert. Christine, you are free, and Herbert is awaiting his bride.”

“The long robes of the novice were slightly agitated, as if the limbs which they covered trembled a little; she remained several seconds without speaking, and then answered:

“It is too late; I am the affianced of the Lord!”

“William uttered a cry of grief, and looked with alarm at the motionless young girl who stood before him.

“Christine,” he exclaimed, ‘you—no longer love Herbert?’

“I am the affianced of the Lord!” repeated the novice, her hands crossed upon her breast, and her eyes raised towards heaven.

“O my God, my God!” exclaimed William, while the tears rolled down his face, ‘my brother has killed this child! her soul has been sad, even unto death! Christine, poor and beloved victim of our severity, tell me what has passed within you during your abode in this convent?’

“I saw others pray—I prayed. There was

* Three Tales: Christine Van Amberg, Resignation, and the Village Doctor. By the Countess d’Arbouville. Translated from the French, by Maunsell B. Field. Harper & Brothers.

a great stillness—I was silent; no one wept—I dried my tears; something, at first chilly, then soothing, enveloped my soul. The voice of God made itself heard—I listened; I loved the Lord—I gave myself to him.'

"And then, as if fatigued by so many words, Martha-Mary relapsed into silence, and that absorbing meditation which made her insensible to all that was passing around her. At this moment the sound of a bell was heard; the novice started, and her eyes sparkled.

"'God calls me,' she said; 'I go to pray.'

"'How! Christine, my child, will you leave me thus!'

"'Do you not hear the bell? it is the hour of prayer.'

"'But, my daughter, my child, I came to take you hence!'

"'I shall never leave the convent. Farewell, uncle,' answered Martha-Mary, walking slowly away.

"At the moment that she opened the door to leave the parlor, she turned towards William; her eyes were fixed upon him with a sad and sweet expression; her lips moved as if to send him a kiss—and she disappeared."

No enemy of convents could wish for stronger evidence in their disfavor than is afforded by these incidents.

The story of "Resignation," although the shortest, is, we think, the best in the book. It is in as perfect keeping as one of Hawthorne's "Twice-told Tales"—a work of which we have often been reminded in reading this volume.

The translator has rendered his author with great ease and elegance.

THE ENGLISH BIBLE.*

The translation of the Bible marks an important period in the literary as well as general history of most modern nations. The important work was committed, wherever it was undertaken at the period of the Reformation, to the ablest scholars alike in the vernacular as in the ancient tongue, and the result, especially in the case of the English version, has been that their labors have furnished the people with a literary as well as religious guide. The English Bible has undoubtedly contributed more than any other book to give permanency to the English language, by furnishing a model alike satisfactory to the scholar and intelligible to the unlearned.

The translators of the Bible are universally better known in their collective than their individual capacity. Every one knows that a certain number of scholars were called together by James I., and that after several years of labor and revision, the standard version was published in 1611. Few, however, can call over the names of these "ripe and good" scholars. The author of the work before us has therefore supplied a want, and although he has executed his task in a very condensed manner, yet furnishes us with a volume highly interesting in itself, apart from its connexion with the revered guide of our lives. In collecting his biographical materials, Mr. McClure informs us that, to his surprise, he could find no work on the subject in existence, and was compelled to proceed at once to the fountain-head for the biography of the golden age of English literature, the unsurpassed sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and search the pages of Fuller's Worthies, Wood's *Athenae Oxoniensis*, and Walton's *Lives*. No scholar could desire to labor in a richer mine.

*The Translators Revived: a Biographical Memoir of the authors of the English Version of the Holy Bible. By A. W. McClure. Scribner.

The author wisely allows Fuller and Walton in many instances to speak for themselves, and his pages consequently sparkle with humor and warm-hearted eloquence.

We cannot, we think, do our readers and the book better service than to promote their better acquaintance by extracting a few of those happy passages:—

HOOKER'S AND SARAVIA'S FRIENDSHIP.

"While Dr. Saravia was prebendary of Canterbury, the famous Richard Hooker was parson of the village of Borne, about three miles distant. Between these worthies there sprang up a friendship, cemented by the agreement of their views and studies. Professor Keble says that Saravia was Hooker's 'confidential adviser,' while the latter was preparing his celebrated books 'Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity.' Old Izaak Walton gives the following beautiful picture of their Christian intimacy: 'These two excellent persons began a holy friendship, increasing daily to so high and mutual affections, that their two wills seemed to be but one and the same; and their designs, both for the glory of God and peace of the church, still assisting and improving each other's virtues, and the desired comforts of a peaceable piety.'

A STORY BY FULLER.

"Once my own father gave Dr. Fenton a visit, who excused himself from entertaining him any longer. 'Mr. Fuller,' said he, 'hear how the passing bell tolls, at this very instant, for my dear friend, Dr. Felton, now a-dying. I must to my study, it being mutually agreed upon between us, in our healths, that the survivor of us should preach the other's funeral sermon.' But see a strange change! God, 'to whom belong the issues of death,' with the patriarch Jacob blessing his grand-children, 'wittingly guided his hands across,' reaching out death to the living, and life to the dying. So that Dr. Felton recovered, and not only performed that last office to his friend, Dr. Fenton, but survived him more than ten years, and died Bishop of Ely."

SIR HENRY SAVILE'S WIFE.

"He (Savile) was so much of a book-worm, and so sedulous at his study, that his lady, who was not very deep in such matters, thought herself neglected. She once petulantly said to him, 'Sir Henry, I would that I were a book, and then you would a little more respect me.' A person standing by was so gallant as to reply, 'Madam, you ought to be an almanac, that he might change at the year's end.' At this retort the lady was not a little offended. A little before the publication of Chrysostom, when Sir Henry lay sick, Lady Savile said, that if Sir Harry died, she would burn Chrysostom for killing her husband. To this, Mr. Bois, who rendered Sir Henry much assistance in that laborious undertaking, meekly replied, that 'so to do were great pity.' To him, the lady said, 'Why, who was Chrysostom?' 'One of the sweetest preachers since the apostles' times,' answered the enthusiastic Bois. Whereupon the lady was much appeased, and said, 'she would not burn him for all the world.'

BISHOP ANDREWS AND BISHOP NEILE.

"In the high offices Bishop Andrews filled, he conducted himself with great ability and integrity. The crack brained king, who scarce knew how to restrain his profaneness and levity under the most serious circumstances, was overawed by the gravity of this prelate, and desisted from mirth and frivolity in his presence. And yet the good bishop knew how to be facetious on occasion. Edmund Waller, the poet, tells of being once at court, and overhearing a conversation held by the king with Bishop Andrews, and Bishop Neile, of Durham.

The monarch, who was always a jealous stickler for his prerogatives, and something more, was in those days trying to raise a revenue without parliamentary authority. In these measures, so clearly unconstitutional, he was opposed by Bishop Andrews with dignity and decision. Waller says, the king asked this brace of bishops,—'My lords, cannot I take my subjects' money when I want it, without all this formality in parliament?' The Bishop of Durham, one of the meanest of sycophants to his prince, and a harsh and haughty oppressor of his puritan clergy, made ready answer,—'God forbid, Sir, but you should; you are the breath of our nostrils!' Upon this the king looked at the Bishop of Winchester,—'Well, my lord, what say you?' Dr. Andrews replied evasively,—'Sir, I have no skill to judge of parliamentary matters.' But the king persisted,—'No put off, my lord! answer me presently.' Then, Sir,' said the shrewd Bishop, 'I think it lawful for you to take my brother Neile's money, for he offers it.' Even the petulant king was hugely pleased with this piece of pleasantry, which gave great amusement to his cringing courtiers."

THE SLEEPY PARISHIONER.

"While Dr. Andrews was one of the divines at Cambridge, he was applied to by a worthy alderman of that drowsy city, who was beset by the sorry habit of sleeping under the afternoon sermon; and who, to his great mortification, had been publicly rebuked by the minister of the parish. As snuff had not then come into vogue, Dr. Andrews did not advise, as some matter-of-fact persons have done in such cases, to titillate the 'sneezer' with a rousing pinch. He seems to have been of the opinion of the famous Dr. Romaine, who once told his full-fed congregation in London, that it was hard work to preach to two pounds of beef and a pot of porter. So Dr. Andrews advised his civic friend to help his wakefulness by dining very sparingly. The advice was followed; but without avail. Again the rotund dignitary slumbered and slept in his pew; and again was he roused by the harsh rebukes of the irritated preacher. With tears in those too sleepy eyes of his, the mortified alderman repaired to Dr. Andrews, begging for further counsel. The considerate divine, pitying his infirmity, recommended him to dine as usual, and then to take his nap before repairing to his pew. This plan was adopted; and to the next discourse, which was a violent invective prepared for the very purpose of castigating the alderman's somnolent habit, he listened with unwinking eyes, and his uncommon vigilance gave quite a ridiculous air to the whole business. The unhappy parson was nearly as much vexed at his huge-waisted parishioner's unwonted wakefulness, as before at his unseemly dozing."

It will be seen from these extracts that the author's own style does not do discredit to that of the magnates he quotes from.

In addition to the lives of King James's translators, we have those also of their predecessors in the same work, and an interesting supplementary chapter showing the strong and eloquent testimony of the fathers in favor of the free and frequent reading of the Holy Scriptures by "all sorts and conditions of men," concluding with an earnest plea that this our birthright may be sacredly held by us, and extended in like manner to all men.

THALATTA.*

A very pleasant book was published last year, with the title "A Book for Summer Time in the Country." It was made up of

*Thalatta: a Book for the sea side. Ticknor, Reed & Fields.

a prose diary of a lover and close observer of books and nature. "Thalatta, a Book for the Seaside," is an appropriate appendage to Mr. Wilmott's literature-loving volume. "Two voices are there," sings Wordsworth; "one is of the sea, one is of the mountains." The compiler of Thalatta has an ear for the former as the poets have interpreted it. In a diligent and loving spirit, he has gleaned from—it would require a large volume to exhaust—what the theme has suggested to the race. As the plan of the book is a collection of so-called minor poems, we lose the impressions of brief images and single epithets which affect us more in the great bards than any of these studied little invocations. Such might be brought out in an essay, but they would have been injured by separation from the text in a fragmentary form. So old Homer, and sea-haunting gods, and goddesses must needs rest in the old epics to give place to Tennyson and Longfellow, Bryant and Mrs. Hemans—more portable and convenient companions for the young ladies and well-disposed gentlemen who will carry this book to Newport and Long Branch, and healthfully exercise their lungs in the attempt to out-roar old Ocean with the sublimities of Byron.

In our view, the best poems in this selection, for its purpose, are those where there is not a "dead set" made at the hoarse-resounder, but where the interest is connected with the sea by shadowy and remote association; where the mind is brought to the subject by fanciful suggestion or some controlling power of the imagination. Thus Mr. Dana's "Buccaneer" is a poem to be read by the seaside. Its length has probably excluded it from this collection, for it is not likely to have been forgotten. It is not a little singular, however, that Crabbe, the poet of the sea-shore, should have been entirely over-looked by the gatherers of shells and sea-weed for Thalatta. One of his sea-stories would have given body to the volume, and so would Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner," which is not here.

Of the incidental poems to which we have alluded, the ballad of Count Arnaldos, translated by Lockhart, which is given, is a choice specimen; and so is the Song by Charles Kingsley, which keeps good company with ballads like Sir Patrick Spens, which is also in the volume.

There is the fine outburst of poetic feeling, by Coleridge, which will lift the hearts of many who will read it, under similar circumstances with him, when

"Our souls have sight of that immortal sea,
Which brought us hither."

SALUTATION.

"God be with thee, gladsome ocean!
How gladly greet I thee once more!
Ships, and waves, and ceaseless motion,
And men rejoicing on thy shore.
"Dissuading spake the mild physician,
'Those briny waves for thee are death!
But my soul fulfilled her mission,
And lo! I breathe untroubled breath!
"Fashion's pining sons and daughters
Who seek the crowd they seem to fly,
Trembling they approach thy waters;
And what cares Nature if they die?
"Me a thousand hopes and pleasures,
A thousand recollections bland,
Thoughts sublime and stately measures,
Revisit on thy echoing strand:
"Dreams (the soul herself forsaking),
Tearful raptures, boyish mirth;

Silent adorations, making
A blessed shadow of this earth!
"O ye hopes, that stir within me,
Health comes with you from above!
God is with me, God is in me!
I cannot die, if Life be Love.

WELLINGTONIANA.

The *Quarterly Review*, which seems to enjoy a monopoly in the field of picturesque, anecdotal gossip, among the reviews, has a very pleasant, stately article on the personalities of the Duke, *d-propos* to a survey of the recently opened Apsley House, in which we find something to be gleaned, even after the great outpouring of Wellingtoniana at the close of last year.

The article in the *Quarterly* is based upon a publication by Ford, the author of the "Hand Book of Spain," who has contributed the letter-press to a series of lithographic plates of the interior of Apsley House, published by Colnaghi. The *Quarterly* is, of course, sufficiently eulogistic, and on one point transcends all human intelligence to bring Deity on the stage as a special participant in the funeral honors to the hero of a hundred human battle-fields. Lord Nelson is also included as the recipient of similar divine honors in the same passage.

"It has not perhaps been generally observed that on fine afternoons the sun casts the shadow of this equestrian figure full upon Apsley House, and the sombre image may be seen gliding spirit-like over the front. We may add also, that we consider the glorious weather of the 18th *neither accidental nor without significance*. The vaunted *soleil d'Austerlitz* never gilded occasion so worthy. For weeks and weeks previously, the buckets of heaven had been emptied, and murky was the pall that had long shrouded the earth: on that day the curtain was drawn up, and the heavens smiled approval as the just man was held in remembrance. When the last rites were concluded, and his honored remains laid in consecrated earth, the curtain fell again, and to mark the exceptional favor, dark and heavy clouds continued to weep for weeks, and the winds to howl and lament. Neither can we forget that on the 9th of January, 1806, when Nelson marshalled the way to St. Paul's, a similar providential manifestation was vouchsafed.

"There are more things in heaven and earth, *Horatio*,
Than are dreamt of in your *Philosophy*."

When another great commander, the Duke of Alva, was once interrogated at the Court of France, as to the miracle of the sun having stopped its course for one of Charles V.'s German victories, in which he had been a participant, he replied very happily that he was so busy that day about what passed on earth, that he took no notice of what was done in heaven.

Talking of Charles V., we are reminded of the tastes of that royal recluse, by Wellington's fondness for watches, of which, it seems, he was an amateur.

THE DUKE'S WATCHES.

"In fondness for watches he rivalled Charles V., who amused his 'cloister life' by trying horological experiments with his mechanician, Juanelo; and such the famous Breguet was to Wellington, who delighted not only in his works but in his conversation. Well knew the veteran porter that M. Breguet was to be let in at any hour. The Duke seldom had less than half-a-dozen watches going at once; and when he travelled, stowed away as many more in a portmanteau made to fit his carriage. He was curious about the exact time, which, like Mr. Stirling's hero, he could never get any two watches to keep, possibly because he wound,

or forgot to wind them up himself. In London he relied on an old clock in his hall, which, like that at the Horse-Guards, was always right. With all his partiality for Breguet, his favourite watch was one of old-fashioned English make:—it once belonged to Tippoo Saib, and had been the companion of all his own campaigns from Seringapatam onwards:—we almost fancy he would have risked giving a battle rather than lose it. Colonel Gurwood used to relate how, when hard pressed, during some retrograde movement, the Duke, having occasion to alight, left it on the ground, and did not miss it until he had ridden three miles, when he went back amid the wondering defilers, and fortunately found it. A second watch had an odd history. This was ordered of Breguet by Napoleon, who designed it for the fob of his brother Joseph, and as a delicate attention directed a miniature map of Spain to be wrought in niello on one side, with the imperial and royal arms on the other. Unluckily, just as it was finished, the Duke drove Joseph out of his kingdom; and the Emperor, finding the times out of joint, refused either to take it or pay for it. At the peace it was bought from Breguet by Sir E. Paget, and presented to the Duke. He had another which the same artist made for Junot, the marshal so trounced by him in Portugal; this is quite an horological curiosity—of which two only were ever constructed—marking the lunar and weekly movements. Latterly, the Duke usually wore *montres de touche*, of which he had many, contrived by Breguet, with certain studs or knobs, by which he could feel what o'clock it was, without the apparent rudeness of pulling out his watch; accordingly, when he seemed to be merely fumbling in his pocket, he was really finding out how he killed the enemy, time."

If he resembled Charles V. in one trait, he had another in common with Napoleon, "the uncommon and enviable faculty of commanding instantaneous sleep; however critical the moment, he could surrender himself to nature's best restorer, whether on a bench, under a tree, or anywhere, to awake refreshed as a giant, and ready again for any work."

The Duke's reputation as a wit was not so great as that of some of his contemporaries, but he has credit for at least one joke which looks suspiciously like a Joe Miller, in the following:

"While the Louvre was being stripped of borrowed plumes, Wellington fell into great disfavor, and was coldly received by some French marshals, on one occasion, as he passed through their Salle in the Tuilleries, on a visit to Louis XVIII; when the king subsequently expressed his surprise and vexation in hearing that they had 'turned their backs' on him, 'It is of no consequence Sire,' was the reply: 'c'est leur habitude.'

The reply to Wilkie was another of the *facetiae*. The painter brings home his "Reading the Waterloo Gazette."

"When the 'Canny Dauid,' as he honestly tells us, brought it in, with the bill charging '1260 pounds, i. e. 1200 guineas,' his Grace, neither less a man of business nor less thrifty in phraseology than the Scotch Teniers, paid *instanter*, counting out the cash himself in bank notes, and without adding one word expressive of satisfaction or otherwise. Only when the recipient interrupted him by a suggestion that a check might save trouble, the paymaster gave him a smile and said, 'Do you think I like Coutts's clerks always to know how foolishly I spend my money?'

A piece of literary intelligence comes out in the mention of the Gurwood Dispatches:

"Gurwood wielded the sword better than

the pen; but, if he did not succeed as an annotator, is fully entitled to the credit of a zealous, trustworthy compiler. The thanks of the world for the Duke's Despatches are mainly due to an elegant and accomplished lady—Mrs. Arbuthnot, the wife of his Grace's faithful Achates: she first suggested the printing and publishing of these documents, to which the Duke objected for a little—but he at last took up the idea, and pronounced Colonel Gurwood, who happened to be present, as 'good as any one else to superintend the operation.' The real editor, however, was the author himself: he read all in proof, and corrected every page, text and margin, with his own hand. The papers were originally set into types exactly as they had been written, but their illustrious editor, always considerate for others, struck out all the names and every sentence which might give pain, and to such an extent that matter sufficient for six additional volumes was, it is said, cancelled. The typographical duty was so honorably conducted by Messrs. Clowes, that neither the head of that vast establishment, nor Mr. Murray, who published the book, ever possessed or even saw the proof-sheets. One copy alone exists of the entire work, and it consists of the identical sheets marked by the Duke's revising pen. This, indeed, is a typographical rarity, which future Roxburghs and Dibbins may sigh to possess, and Humes and Hallams to peruse; and when the present generation is passed, when personal considerations cease to operate, and history can fairly claim its rights, these now sealed volumes will raise their author to even a higher pinnacle, by a more complete display of his genius, and a further revelation of the inadequacy of the means by which ends so great were accomplished. Then, as he remarked himself, 'When my papers are read, many statues will have to be taken down.'

"The publication, so far as it has gone, of this code of the English soldier and gentleman, this encyclopædia of military and administrative science, first convinced many among our own *liberals* of the union in our great captain of all those high qualities which the glorious profession of arms peculiarly calls forth. These unaffected documents could not be mistaken. They who run must read his love for King and Country, his spotless honor and honesty, exalted sense of duty, godlike presence of mind, self-relying courage in danger, serene equanimity in reverse or victory; his lofty contempt of calumniators—his self-denial and scrupulous consideration of others—his sagacity and forethought—his unsparing, intense labor of body and mind—last, not least, his modesty and simplicity."

But since the present age has Thackeray, it will hardly be necessary for posterity to thumb those military despatches for the conversation of the nineteenth century, as Sir Robert Peel was, after dinner, it seems, inclined to think.

"The following scrap is from the private diary of a friend who happened to dine—quite *en famille*—with the late Sir Robert Peel one Sunday, in Whitehall Gardens, at the time when the original *Gurwood* was in course of publication:—

"After dinner, a chief subject the Despatches, of which another volume has just come out. I was struck with one remark of Peel's. 'In my opinion,' said he, 'when a studious man, say an American, a hundred or two hundred years hence, wishes to get at a distinct notion of what was in this age the actual style and tone of conversation in good English society, he will have to rely very much on Gurwood. We have had no dramatist at all—we have had only two good novelists, and neither of them is at home in *England*. As yet I see nothing that will be so valuable, even in this way, as the Duke's Letters.'"

LITERATURE, BOOKS OF THE WEEK, ETC.

Our latest Crystal Palace intelligence is from abroad, in the following leader from the *London Times* :—

Besides the Earl of Ellesmere, Sir Charles Lyell, and Mr. Dilke, the Royal Commission which is about to be issued for the American International Exhibition will, we understand, embrace the names of Professor G. Wilson, Mr. Whitworth, and Mr. Wallis. It will thus consist of six members, and form a body well calculated not only worthily to represent this country on the other side of the Atlantic, but to bring back, in the shape of official reports, the results of the approaching industrial display. The nobleman who is placed at the head of the Commission is thoroughly qualified to pronounce a judgment upon the merits of the Fine Arts' section, while he unites with a highly cultivated taste the *prestige* of rank and wealth. Science, especially in the departments of raw produce and mineralogy, could not find in this country a worthier representative than Sir Charles Lyell; and Mr. Dilke, the least rewarded, and certainly not the least valuable member of our own Executive Committee in Hyde Park, by his practical good sense, his business habits, and his experience, may fairly be expected to stamp the new Commission with a useful as well as a merely dignified character. Professor Wilson is favorably known to the public from the attention which he has paid to scientific agriculture, and it may be anticipated that at New York he will find the materials for much useful information to his own countrymen in that and kindred branches of knowledge. The appointment of Mr. Wallis also is a very judicious one. He was one of the most valuable and active officers employed at Hyde Park in 1851, and, apart altogether from his acquirements as a teacher of the first principles of practical art, he has a rare and extensive acquaintance with the merits of textile fabrics in every branch of their manufacture. Perhaps, however, for the material interests of this country, so far as they are likely to be affected by the New York Exhibition, the most valuable member of the new Commission is Mr. Whitworth, the leading maker in this country of what are called "Manchester tools." Mr. Whitworth is the very best man that could be selected to concentrate into a report the mechanical results of the New York Exhibition; and, ingenious and inventive as the Americans undoubtedly are, we need not be ashamed to send over to them, as a reporter, the mechanic who can, by the unaided exercise of his craft, measure the millionth part of an inch. The Commission goes to America carrying with it *souvenirs* of the display of 1851, with which all its members have been intimately associated. It is accredited neither to the Committee of the New York Exhibition nor to the Government, for the former is a private commercial body which this country could not officially acknowledge, and the latter only indirectly patronizes the undertaking. It has, however, ample powers and a useful and dignified mission. It is charged with the duty of representing the industrial interests of England at the forthcoming display, and of reporting, in an authoritative manner, upon the results thereof. The Government have issued it upon the suggestion of the Surplus Commissioners, and they have further shown their zeal in the matter by getting several of the chief departments of the state to contribute. The Ordnance, the Admiralty, the Mint, and the Board of Trade, through its School of Mines, intend to send articles for exhibition; and it is worthy of remark that, little as we may show, compared with the constituted authorities of other European communities, we have done far more as a body politic for the New York Exhibition than we did for our own. In Hyde Park the Government showed itself

chiefly active in snubbing the Royal Commission, and worrying it, through Lord Seymour. Dr. Royle is busily engaged in selecting, on the part of the East India Company, a brilliant show of Oriental manufactures wherewith to dazzle the Western World. About 800 British exhibitors, comprising the leading houses in important departments of our national industry, have sent contributions. Our artists are admitted also to the field of competition which embraces painting, and among the champions of the national industry is included the name of the Duke of Buccleugh. Considering the extent to which other European States as well as our own intend supporting the approaching Exhibition, it is a matter of some surprise that the building in which the display takes place is one of such small dimensions. The site upon which it stands is not more than 500 feet square, and the structure itself has been already supplemented by additions for machinery. We Londoners grumble at the want of space available for such objects, and the surplus of the late Exhibition has been sunk in one lump sum to secure more elbow-room for our public institutions; but in New York, with a continent in the back ground, the evil seems to be still more severely felt, and they appear there to have been driven into a situation not much more convenient than that at one time contemplated for the display of 1851, when it was seriously proposed to hold it in Leicester-square. Only one-third of the area has been reserved for native exhibitors, the rest being devoted to the products of European industry and art."

Thackeray is the subject of a candid and highly appreciative article in the *Westminster Review*. His early works are commented upon, and a pathetic scene in the *Yellow-plush Papers* pointed out as an earnest of his later powers. In the passage where the Earl of Crabs and his equipage meet the disappointed Mr. Deuceace in the Bois de Boulogne:

"Deuceace turned round. I see his face now—the face of a devile of hell! First, he look towards the carriage, and pointed to it with his maimed arm; then he raised the other, and struck the woman by his side. She fell, screaming.

"Poor thing! Poor thing!

"There is a frightful truthfulness in this picture that makes the heart sick. We turn from it, as we do from the hideous realities of an old Flemish painter, or from some dismal revelation in a police report. Still, the author's power burns into the memory the image of that miserable woman, and his simple exclamation at the close tells of a heart that has bled at the monstrous brutalities to the sex, of which the secret records are awfully prolific, but which the romance writer rarely ventures to approach. If we have smiled at the miserable vanity and weakness of poor Matilda Griffin before, we remember them no more after that woeful scene."

The "Luck of Barry Lyndon," one of Thackeray's books which has not received the notice it deserves, is thus commented on:

"The Luck of Barry Lyndon," which followed soon after the appearance of "The Yellow-plush Papers," was a little relieved by brighter aspects of humanity, but so little, that it can never be referred to with pleasure, despite the sparkling brilliancy of the narrative, and abundant traces of the most delightful humor. How completely, in a sentence, does Barry convey to us a picture of his mother!

"Often and often has she talked to me and the neighbors regarding her own humility and piety, pointing them out in such a way, that I would defy the most obstinate to disbelieve her."

"The same vein of delicate sarcasm runs throughout the tale, where every page is

marked by that matchless expressiveness and ease of style for which Mr. Thackeray is the envy of his contemporaries. The hero is as worthless a scoundrel as ever swindled at *scarts*, or earthed his man in a duel. He narrates his own adventures and rascallities with the artless naïveté of a man troubled by no scruples of conscience or misgivings of the moral sense—a conception as daring as the execution is admirable. For a time the reader is carried along, with a smiling admiration of the author's humor, and quiet way of bringing into view the seamy side of a number of respectable shams; but when he finds that he is passed along from rake to swindler, from gambler to ruffian—that the men lie, cheat, and cog the dice, and that the women intrigue, or drink brandy in their tea, or are fatuous fools, the atmosphere becomes oppressive, and even the brilliancy of the wit begins to pall. Yet there are passages in this story, and sketches of character, which Mr. Thackeray has never surpassed. Had these been only mingled with some pictures of people not either hateful for wickedness or despicable for weakness, and in whom we could have felt a cordial interest, the tale might have won for its author much of the popularity which he must have seen, with no small chagrin, carried off by men altogether unfit to cope with him in originality or power."

A very delightful essay is quoted by the reviewer, 'On a Good-Looking Young Lady,' which reads like a paper of Sir Richard Steele. It is very Spectatorish: one of Thackeray's studies probably for his *Lectures* and *"Esmond."* It has a charming opening:

"Some time ago I had the fortune to witness at the house of Erminia's brother a rather pretty and affecting scene; whereupon, as my custom is, I would like to make a few moral remarks. I must premise that I knew Erminia's family long before the young lady was born. Victoria her mother, Boa her aunt, Chinchilla her grandmother—I have been intimate with every one of these ladies; and at the table of Sabilla, her married sister, with whom Erminia lives, have a cover laid for me whenever I choose to ask for it.

"Everybody who has once seen Erminia remembers her. Fate is beneficent to the man before whose eyes at the parks, or churches, or theatres, or public or private assemblies, it throws Erminia. To see her face is a personal kindness for which one ought to be thankful to Fortune; who might have shown you Caprella, with her whiskers, or Felissa, with her savage eyes, instead of the calm and graceful, the tender and beautiful Erminia. When she comes into the room, it is like a beautiful air of Mozart breaking upon you; when she passes through a ball room, everybody turns and asks who is that princess, that fairy-lady! Even the women, especially those who are most beautiful themselves, admire her. By one of those kind freaks of favoritism which Nature takes, she has endowed this young lady with almost every kind of perfection; has given her a charming face, a perfect form, a pure heart, a fine perception and wit, a pretty sense of humor, a laugh and a voice that are as sweet as music to hear, for innocence and tenderness ring in every accent, and grace of movement which is a curiosity to watch, for in every attitude of motion or repose her form moves or settles into beauty, so that a perpetual grace accompanies her."

Seventy-Eight Years Ago is the title of an article of American interest appearing in the *Household Words*. It is an entertaining reproduction of the incidents of the diary of Samuel Curwen, published in this country in 1842. Curwen was a merchant and Ad-

miralty Judge, at Salem, Mass., at the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, and fled as a loyalist to England. His journal covers nine years of exile. From the summary of the *Household Words* we take a single passage, commemorative of a political economist in advance of his age—the zealous and independent Dean Tucker:

"Mr. Curwen drily describes him, as well as the opinions he heard expressed by him, in the remark that he has been sitting in company with 'a famous political divine and anti-colonist, who judges the colonies a burthen to Great Britain, and presses Administration to cast them off.'

"The man who held these eccentric opinions was the Dean of Gloucester, Doctor Josiah Tucker; and the reason for his holding them was, that he alone, among the public writers of that day, correctly reasoned on the causes of colonial as well as home prosperity, and what obstructed their future development. He did not dispute the right of England to tax America, and he held the colonists to have been wrong at the outset of the dispute; but he had the courage and foresight to warn his countrymen to desist from any further struggle, for that political power was not to be increased by the cumbrous and unwieldy retention of ill-governed territory, but by energetic and judicious cultivation of physical resources, commercial interchanges, and intellectual acquirements. He exploded the fallacy of the advantage supposed to be implied in the monopoly of a distant market. A far other and greater market we had created in America, a market of the raw material from which prosperous empires are made; for we had supplied that vast continent with man, and with institutions that strengthened and developed manhood,—nor could the inevitable tendency of such be stayed by any human power. Let the separation be only prompt and amicable, and all would be well."

"For this, as we see, our intelligent American loyalist denounces him as an 'anti-colonist'; and much harder words were applied to him in those days by men who had less excuse for the error. Burke himself, in his impetuous advocacy of America, refused to believe that any man could have formed an opinion in favor of separation except with the dishonest motive of secretly helping the hostility of the court, by making the colonies unpopular with the people. He denounced the Dean of Gloucester, therefore, 'as one of those court vermin who would do anything for the sake of a bishopric,' and was not moved to retract the coarse insinuation even by Tucker's calm and dignified reproof, declaring his independence of both parties, and that his opinions had been equally unpalatable to both. Burke's attack, however, passionate and unthinking as it was, was not, like Bishop Warburton's, treacherous. The bishop assailed the dean through the side of their common calling, and, referring to the commercial arguments by which the case for separation had been urged, described him as a divine with whom religion was a trade, and with whom trade was a religion. 'The bishop affects to consider me with contempt,' replied the dean, calmly; 'to which I say nothing. He has sometimes spoken coarsely of me; to which I replied nothing. He has said that religion is my trade, and trade is my religion. It is quite true that commerce and its connexions have been favorite objects of my attention; and where is the crime? As for religion, I have attended carefully to the duties of my parish; nor have I neglected my cathedral. The world knows something of me as a writer on religious subjects; and I will add, what the world does not know, that I have written near three hundred sermons, and preached them all again and

again. My heart is at ease on that score; and my conscience, thank God! does not accuse me.'

Life of Dr. Chalmers, edited by the Rev. J. C. Moffatt, Latin Professor in the College of New Jersey, Princeton (Cincinnati, Moore & Co.), is one of those publications in biography called for by the extreme length to which all recent memoirs from Scott to Thomas Moore have been extended. Hanna's life of Dr. Chalmers, in four volumes, is a well prepared and valuable work which can never be neglected by the student of religious history or the philosophical observer of character; but its size may deter many from its perusal. For the benefit of this class, Professor Moffatt has abridged the Edinburgh memoirs, bringing the work within a single volume, and the words of Dr. Hanna have been judiciously retained. It would have been well, we think, for Dr. Hanna to have performed this task himself, and under a sound copyright law he would have the privilege of doing so. Another question also arises, how far this condensation of books is profitable to the American publishers of the original and entire work. The practice must evidently tend to the deterioration of literary labor, and to the destruction of the property of publishers.

The Genius and Mission of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, by the Rev. Calvin Colton, is the title of a volume published by Stanford and Swords, the most pertinent point of which, in reference to the times, is the protest of the author against the introduction of new ceremonial, &c. "The mission of the American Episcopal Church," says Mr. C., "is to the American people, and nothing could be more philosophical than to adapt its ceremonial, as well as its polity, to the genius of that people; and nothing, surely, could be more unphilosophical than to disregard the genius of the people in these arrangements."

Memoirs and Sermons of Rev. W. J. Armstrong, edited by Rev. (why is Rev. always written by the printers, instead of the Rev.?) Willis Read (Dodd).—A biographical notice and selection from the remains of a zealous officer of the American Board of Foreign Missions. He died in 1846, at the age of fifty, while travelling in the prosecution of his missionary duties, the victim, in the wreck of the Atlantic, of one of those numerous disasters which have become almost matters of daily reading in the columns of our newspapers. His friendships were with many of the best men of his times, with whom he was brought in contact by his office of secretary.

The Evidences of Christianity, by Bishop McIlvaine; a new edition, the ninth in the course of twenty years, of a standard work in its department; issued by the American Tract Society.

Night Watches; or, the Peace of the Cross, by E. L. (Philadelphia: Hazard).—A volume of devotional poetry, written during the progress of a nervous disease; a plea which would disarm criticism, were the meditations of the pious heart, unaffectedly expressed, a subject for such treatment. The topics are in the school of Keble's sacred poetry, commemorative of the progress of the ecclesiastic-

tical year, and there is much of that dignity and love of nature in them. The latter sentiment is touchingly reflected in the *Thoughts on Spring*, the beauties of which are denied to the lonely sufferer.

The season cometh with "good news," to buds and flowers of earth,
Which, wakened from their winter graves, reply with joyous mirth;
The sleepers hear, and decked with strength and beauteous life arise,
And greet the vernal gospel as a word from Paradise.
The leaves, the grass, the forest old, the lilies of the vale,
In concert thank Him who hath sworn the seasons shall not fail:
Unspoken melodies, not heard but *felt* by love alone,
Refresh the unsealed heart, prepared sweet Nature's God to own.

The Brand of Dominic; or Inquisition: at Rome "Supreme and Universal," by the Rev. W. H. Rule (Carlton & Phillips).—Dr. Slop, in *Tristram Shandy*, did not like to hear much of the Inquisition, and we presume he would have been as little pleased with the terrors of this book as with the meek expositions of *UNCLE TOBY*. It is a story which, often as it has been told, will not for many ages be without its effect in checking the disposition of state and religious bodies (for the two are united) towards intolerance in matters of opinion. This book is an historical summary of a very painful subject; but its lesson is a very profitable one.

The Journal of the American Oriental Society, Vol. III. No. 2, has just been received. It contains eight very interesting and learned papers, and in every way sustains the high character which the society has attained both at home and abroad. We have been particularly struck with the articles on the *Morality of the Veda*, by Prof. Roth of Tubingen, and on the *Genuineness of the so-called Nestorian Monument of Lingan Fu*, by Prof. Salisbury. Besides these more elaborate papers there are a number of *miscellanies* of importance and value to Oriental students, together with the additions to the library and cabinet, and a list of the members of the American Oriental Society up to April, 1853.

THE CHILDRENS' PRAYER TO MAIA.

Give us a sunny morning, Maia dear,
For our nice May-day: let no misty rain,
Now when our holiday has come so near,
Fall on the sweet flowers, springing in the plain.

Give us a morning full of light and joy,
Dear Maia; you, they say, are queen of May:
Make the time bright and sweet for girl and boy;

Make the sky blue and worthy of the day:

For the gay garlands glitter, flower on flower,
And muslin dresses hang out in the sun,
And all is ready for the morning hour;
Run quickly, sun! through the dim night-time run!

For all the girls are binding up their hair,
And all the boys are dreaming of the morn;
And it's so nice to breathe the sunny air!

Therefore, good Maia, let the day be born

With joy and merry music swimming through
The laughing air; and birds upon the trees
Singing for lightness; and a pretty blue
In the far sky: and murmuring busy bees!

Oh! what a day we'll have, if you are kind,
Oh, Maia, listen to us! we will try
And always love you, if we wake and find
The sunlight in the beautiful cloudless sky!

Give us a sunny morning, Maia dear!
Give us light hearts, the livelong happy day—

May nothing happen that will bring a tear,
But all be laughter; Maia, hear us pray!

For we are children, nothing more: the things
That please old grown-up people are not ours!

Wake the May morn with every bird that sings;
Deck the bright hill-sides with your fairest flowers!

L. I. L.

Virginia, May, 1853.

THE INVISIBLE WORLD.

BY M. L. C.

"All over doth this outer earth
And inner earth infold,
And sounds may reach us of its mirth
Over its pales of gold."

T. W. FABER.

TRULY, the dead are all around,
Filling the thin blue air,
Treading with us life's daily paths,
Beside us everywhere.

Stoop we to cull the blossoms fair
That gem life's beaten sod,
We mark their footsteps in the path
Where, late, the living trod.

Sail we, with throbbing hearts, upon
The strange and mighty deep;
The wrecks of the departed there
Shall cause our hearts to weep.

Truly, the dead are all around,
In sunny glade, and dell;
Peopling the vacant spots of earth
With forms invisible.

And slowly we are moving on,
With tread all firm and brave,
To dwell in that dim land, that lies
Beyond the unknown grave.

God grant us grace to recognise
This world, which many drea';
So shall we, in our paths of life,
Walk with unfaltering tread.

MUSIC.

WE are indebted to Messrs. W. Hall & Son, for early copies of the new and pleasing music mentioned below. Hall & Son are indefatigable in their enterprise, and select their pieces with judgment and taste. Their name on a piece of music is a guarantee of its excellence. The two new pieces by Wm. Vincent Wallace are worthy of the reputation of this favorite composer: they are a Nocturn for three voices, "Adieu, Dear Native Land," words by Henry C. Watson. Brilliant, but easy variations on the spirited *Polka Aria* by Alary. F. Fowler contributes the *Afton Polka*, a worthy successor to his *Fire-Fly Polka*. George Lindy's pleasing ballad, "Why do I love thee?" will charm our young lady friends, and the new "Florida Schottische" by Torrente, made fashionable by its performance at Madame Torrente's, will please all classes. We specially commend it to our readers.

MISCELLANY AND GOSSIP.

THE New York Sketch Club celebrated its sixth anniversary at the rooms of Messrs. Cafferty, Blondell, Blauvelt & Brush, on Friday evening of last week. This club, from a modest beginning, has grown year by year into the goodly tree, or rather into a wide

and vari-colored landscape, all alive with the sketchy excellences and musical with the festive voices of the in-every-way clever members. The sixth anniversary was made happy and successful by speech, song, and sentiment, from the late president, Mr. Cafferty, the new president—prospered be in his day of power!—T. D. Jones—the humorous treasurer's report, and graphic verses of Mr. Hagan; the modest return of secretary Thompson; the practical and suggestive speech of Burckhardt; the well timed and well worded toast of Mr. Watson, the graceful fluency of Otis, the songs and waggery of "brother" Gayler. The eloquent paper on "Painting" (not in *water* colors by the way) by Savage, the gorgeous and glowing enthusiasm of Fosdick, and the historical references of the first president of the Club, Mr. Richards, with Blondell, Kyle, and others, to form an artistic background of eloquent silence. The semi-monthly meetings of the N. Y. Sketch Club are of practical utility to the cause of Art, by the production of sketches which form a most interesting series of contemporary illustrations. Some of the best talent in the Arts belongs to the Club, combined with a happy power of social enjoyment—free, free-spoken, and unenvious—brightening the year in the short meetings, and concentrating upon the annual gatherings a cheerful and brilliant light—long may it shine!

—The death of Tieck, the celebrated German author, which occurred at Berlin, April 28th, is an event to be returned to, and we shall, therefore, publish a full sketch of his career, with a suitable comment upon his writings.

—The literary testimonial to Kossuth, in England, from single penny subscriptions, has resulted in the presentation of a copy of Charles Knight's *Shakspeare*, bound in mulberry-colored morocco, stamped with the great Magyar's bearings, and inclosed in a case which is an exact model of *Shakspeare's* house, executed in white holly and black oak. Douglas Jerrold was to be spokesman at the presentation.

—A Paris correspondent of the *Tribune* has a good word for the French Emperor.

"Louis Napoleon is more than ever determined to illustrate his reign by metropolitan improvements. While the completion of the Louvre and the constructions in the new Rue Rivoli are rapidly going on, orders have been given to demolish at once all the condemned houses in the thickly populated quarter of the 'Cité.' The Hotel Dieu and its appendages, the Marché Neuf, and the Rue de la Calandre, are all to disappear before the coronation. The appearance of the island, the oldest part of Paris, will be completely changed within a few weeks. Another vast undertaking, not hitherto spoken of, is just announced. One whole side of the Rue Neuve des Petits Champs is to be pulled down, and the street will be widened to the size of the Rue Vivienne. It is also said that all the crowded, dirty houses that surround the Church of St. Roch will be demolished, and a handsome square will be formed between the Rue St. Roch and the Rue Richelieu. The new Boulevard Malesherbes, intended to continue the line of Boulevards from the Madeleine to the Barrière des Monceaux, is to be begun forthwith."

—A fat man, old but not tough, has justice done to him in this passage from the *Worcestershire Chronicle*:

"In Leyburn there has lived for many years an ingenious person, whose versatility of talent has long been acknowledged by the inha-

bitants. Some little time ago our hero manifested a slight eccentricity, in expressing a wish to his housekeeper that he might be able, at Christmas, to turn the beam at twenty stone (he then weighing upwards of sixteen stone); at the same time promising her marriage if, by dint of high feeding, she could assist him in accomplishing that object! She accordingly set to work; many and ludicrous were the experiments tried, ere the desired specific was found. By proper diet, judiciously prescribed, our worthy's corporeal structure gradually expanded, until at length it was whispered that his outer garments were undergoing alteration at a neighboring tailor's. On Christmas-day, our hero was brought to the beam, which he easily cast at twenty stone three pounds, exactly three pounds more than was stipulated for. His housekeeper having successfully accomplished her part of the agreement, now called upon him to ratify his promise at the altar. He at once assented, and made preparation for the ceremony. But alas! the bond was not to be completed so easily. The two devotees of Cupid had not, unfortunately, consulted their neighbors—a thing of paramount importance in all small towns. On the day when their bliss should have been consummated, a mob assailed the house, hurling bricks, stones, and other available missiles through the windows, until the unfortunate couple were obliged to quit the scene of devastation, and take refuge in an iron warehouse. Here they remained until the mob subsided, and then retired to their shattered domicile, determined to be up with the lark, and, on the wings of love, fly to the haven of Gretna. A post-chaise was secretly ordered at the Bolton Arms; next evening, at five o'clock, they were over the Border, and shortly after, man and wife were congratulating each other on having outwitted their "knowing" neighbors.

— A couple of curious paragraphs from *Notes & Queries*:

"The custom of throwing a shoe, taken from the left foot, after persons for good luck, has been practised in Norfolk from time immemorial, not only at weddings, but on all occasions where good luck is required. Some forty years ago a cattle dealer desired his wife to 'trull her left shoe after him,' when he started for Norwich to buy a lottery ticket. As he drove off on his errand, he looked round to see if she performed the charm, and consequently he received the shoe in his face, with such force as to black his eyes. He went and bought his ticket, which turned up a prize of £600; and his son has assured me that his father always attributed his luck to the extra dose of shoe which he got. E. G. R."

"During the latter years of his life, Warren Hastings was in the habit of visiting General D'Oyley, in the New Forest; and thus he became acquainted with the Rev. W. Gilpin, vicar of Boldre, and author of 'Forest Scenery,' &c. Mr. Gilpin's custom was to receive morning visitors, who sat and enjoyed his agreeable conversation; and Warren Hastings, when staying in the neighbourhood, often resorted to the Boldre Parsonage. It happened, one Sunday, that Mr. Gilpin preached a sermon on the character of Felix, which commenced in words like these:—Felix was a bad man and a bad governor. He took away another man's wife and lived with her; and he behaved with extortion and cruelty in the provinces over which he ruled." Other particulars followed, equally in accordance with the popular charges against the late Governor-General of India, who, to the preacher's dismay, was unexpectedly discovered sitting in the D'Oyley pew. Mr. Gilpin concluded that he then saw the last of his 'great' friend. But no, not so; on the following morning Warren Hastings

came with his usual pleasant manner, for a chat with the vicar, and, of course, made no allusion to the sermon. This was told me by a late valued friend, who was a nephew and curate of Mr. Gilpin; and I am not aware that the anecdote has been put on record."

— A short critique, sometimes makes short work with a reputation, of which we have several notable examples—the latest this notice of a publication by Mr. Richards, the author of the Tragedy of "Vandyke" and other works, which have all the hill and valley variety of true genius. The notice is from a recent number of the *London Standard*:

"*Cobden and his Pamphlet Considered, in a Letter to Richard Cobden, Esq., M. P.* By Alfred B. Richards, Esq. Bailey Brothers, Royal Exchange-buildings, Cornhill; and Aylot & Co., Paternoster-row.—Mr. Richards is an ingenious and eloquent writer, and his pamphlet deserves to be read for present gratification, and to be preserved for reference hereafter, but we can scarcely think it necessary now for any other purpose. The man of "unadorned eloquence" is at present pretty nearly the smallest person in the empire; he has never lifted his head since the night of his awful extinction by the Titan chastisement administered to him by the learned member for Youghall. Yes, Mr. Isaac Butt snuffed out once and for ever the shining light once worshipped and obeyed by a prime minister of the British empire."

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

The Heavenly Home; or, the Employment and Enjoyment of the Saints in Heaven.—Under this title, Messrs. LINDSAY & BLAKISTON, of Philadelphia, will issue about the 1st of June, a 12mo. volume, by the Rev. Mr. Harbaugh, author of those very popular books, "Heaven; or, the Sainted Dead," and the "Heavenly Recognition of Friends," the first of which has already reached to the eighth and the latter to the sixth edition. They will also have ready, at the same time, new editions of both the above mentioned volumes, and a uniform edition in three vols., 12mo. The subject of this author's writings is calculated to enlist the sympathy of all readers, whilst the simplicity and beauty of his style will unite to give them an ever increasing popularity.

We have received from STANFORD & SWORDS a neat, compact edition of the *Book of Common Prayer*, and the *Proper Lessons*, bound up in one vol., 18mo. It is issued with the publishers' usual taste.

Literary Intelligence from the *Publishers' Circular*:—Mr. Murray has just ready for publication "Galton's Narrative of an Explorer in Tropical South Africa," the 3d and 4th vols. of "George Grenville's Diary," "Life in Abyssinia, or the Narrative of an Englishman resident in the Country," by Mansfield Parkyns; Lieut. Hooper's "Ten Months among the Tents of the Tuski"; Dr. Hook's "Discourses Bearing upon some of the Controversies of the Day"; and John Palliser's "Solitary Rambles and Adventures of a Hunter in the Prairies."

Messrs. Longman & Co. have ready Burton's "History of Scotland," 2 vols. 8vo; Merivale's "Fall of the Roman Republic," and the new edition of Dr. Roget's "Thesaurus"; promising in a few days the following: "There and back again, in search of Beauty," by J. A. St. John; the new edition of "Lord Jeffrey's Contributions to the Edinburgh Review," "Memoirs of the Earl of Peterborough (Charles Mordaunt)," by the author of "Hochelaga," and the Rev. Arthur Martineau's "Church History in England."

Mr. Bentley has ready several works that must take lead amongst the literature of the day, comprehending amongst others "Earl

Grey on our Colonial Policy;" Lord John Russell's "Memoirs of Fox;" Lord Mahon's 5th vol. of the "Works of Lord Chesterfield;" and Sir George Larpent's "Private Journal of General Larpent." Messrs. Ingram and Cooke have added to their illustrated libraries a volume of the "Boyhood and Early Life of Extraordinary Men;" "English Forests and Forest Trees;" and another tale of the City of London, entitled "Queen Philippa and the Hurter's Daughter."

Messrs. Saunders and Otley announce, for next week an important work by Colonel Churchill, in 3 vols., being "A Descriptive Memoir of Ten Years' Residence at Mount Lebanon, with Sketches of its Scenery, Productions, &c., with Manners and Customs of the Druses and Maronites."

Mr. W. P. Robertson, author of "Letters on Paraguay," has just published his "Visit to Mexico, with Sketches of the West India Islands, Yucatan, and the United States." Cheap editions are ready of the following new books—"The American Slave Code," "Manuel Pereira, or the Sovereign Rule of South Carolina," and N. P. Willis's new book, "A Summer's Cruise in the Mediterranean." A new book, depicting scenes of Italian life, under the title of "Lorenzo Benoni," will attract some notice.

The first volume of Professor Gilfillan's new series of the Poets is ready, comprising "Milton's Paradise Lost." Messrs. Parker and Son have had, we understand, a series some time in preparation, of similar character, but of smaller size, to consist of about 40 volumes, 16mo. The first number of the People's Edition of Sir A. Alison's "History of Europe," is published in London; also the first number of Mr. J. H. Parker's "National Miscellany." Mr. M'Glashan advertises a useful list of Irish Guide Books, in anticipation of demand during the Dublin Exhibition. An Illustrated Catalogue of the Exhibition will be published by A. Hall and Co., in two parts.

Baron Humboldt is now engaged on the 4th volume of his "Cosmos," which is expected to appear in the course of the summer. The Baron is also said to be preparing to publish a collection of his scattered remarks on Volcanoes, collected together now for the first time.

The distinguished physiologist, Ehrenberg, whose researches and microscopical observations on the Infusoria, and other minute departments of animal life, have attracted so much attention, is said now to have completed his great work on the influence of microscopic life on the formation of the earth and of rocks. This work is expected to form an epoch in the history of scientific observation. Dr. Hitchcock's new work on the "Geology of the Globe" is nearly ready for publication, and will appear first in England, securing the benefit of copyright to the author. The second volume is just completed of Mr. Morris's national work on "British Birds;" and Messrs. Binns and Goodwin have issued one of their most attractive little works this week, illustrating the "Eggs of British Birds," copied and colored from nature, with descriptions and anecdotes of the Birds.

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So great is the estimate in which this work is held in this distant English colony, that many of my fellows in labor, Americans and others, and some of the principal officers of the British government, have already procured it, while others, in both public and private life, have sent for it, or are about to do so.

His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor, a reputed scholar, calling upon us more than a year since, saw the work, admired, and at once ordered a copy for his own use. About a month since one of the civil magistrates inquired of me where and how he could obtain a copy for himself. And only last week the Honorable the Secretary to Government, a man of much maturity in both years and knowledge, passing a day or two with us, referred several times to WEBSTER'S QUARTO DICTIONARY as the highest standard and indisputably the best work of the kind in the English language. Its general merits and marked excellencies are too well known and acknowledged to require of me any enumeration, had I the time to make it.

I will only add a word of my own experience. In 1841, while a student at Yale, having at command only eighteen dollars, and not knowing where or where I could obtain more, I paid five-sixths of what I had for Webster's Dictionary, in two volumes octavo; and dear as it was and with some defects, I can say, after ten years' study and labor, that, save my Bible, I never bought a book to me cheaper, better, or more useful.

But now the same work carefully revised and enlarged, and containing, in addition, the valuable pronouncing vocabularies of Scripture, classical and geographical names, may be had for half, or less than half the former price. May every American youth and son of Britain, and every man of letters of every nation, soon have access to it, and become, for the most part, possessors of it. Such is my wish and expectation. Every missionary, every statesman, every man of science and literature, of extensive commerce and true religion, of whatever nation, who knows its value, consults his own interest, and studies to be useful, will endeavor to obtain it, and will find it an invaluable companion in all his pursuits. It has already found its way into the darkest parts of the world, and is exerting a silent, but steady, elevating and powerful influence, directly or indirectly, upon the mind, character, and language of every nation under the sun.

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A N ACT FURTHER TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.—PASSED APRIL 12, 1853.

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, Do enact as follows:

§ 1. The Legislative Powers of the Corporation of the City of New York, shall be vested in a board of Aldermen and a board of Councilmen, who, together, shall form the Common Council of the city.

The board of Aldermen shall consist of one Alderman from each ward, who shall be elected by the people of the respective Wards, for two years. The board of Councilmen shall consist of sixty members, to be elected from as many districts, who shall be sworn into office on the first Monday in January next, succeeding their election, and shall hold their offices for one year, and shall receive the same compensation as the Aldermen.

§ 2. The members of the Board of Aldermen first elected under this act shall be classified as follows:—On or before the first Tuesday in December succeeding the next general election, the Clerk of the City and County of New York shall, in the presence of the Mayor, Recorder, and Comptroller, or a majority thereof, draw from a box, to be provided for the purpose, in which two ballots shall have been deposited, having thereon respectively, either the word "odd" or the word "even," one ballot; if the ballot so drawn shall have thereon the word "odd" then the term of office of the Aldermen chosen from wards having an odd numerical designation, shall expire on the first Monday of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and in case the ballot having thereon the word "even" shall be drawn, then the term of office of the Aldermen having an even numerical designation, shall expire on the first Monday of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six. At all subsequent elections, Aldermen shall be elected for the full term of Two years.

§ 3. For the election of Councilmen, the said city shall be divided into sixty districts of contiguous territory, and as near as may be of equal population, each of which shall chose one Councilman. The Common Council shall so divide the city into such districts on or before the first Monday in September next, and thereafter within one year after the State and National census shall have been completed, the Common Council shall in like manner re-district said city.

§ 4. Every act, resolution, or ordinance appropriating money or involving the expenditure of money not rendered imperative under provisions of any State law, shall originate in the Board of Councilmen, but the Board of Aldermen may propose or concur with amendments as in other cases.

§ 5. A vote of two thirds of all the members elected to each Board shall be necessary to pass any act, ordinance, or resolution of the Common Council, which shall have been returned by the Mayor, with his objections.

§ 6. No Alderman shall hereafter sit or act as Judge in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, or in the Courts of General or Special Sessions, in the City and County of New York; but this section shall not prevent his exercising the power of a magistrate on the arrest, commitment, or bailing of offenders, except that he cannot set the bail, or discharge a person arrested or committed by another magistrate.

§ 7. All ferries, docks, piers, and slips, shall be leased, and all leases and sales of public property and franchises, (other than grants of land under water, to which the owner of the upland shall have a pre-emption right,) shall be made by public auction, and to the highest bidder who will give adequate security, (no lease hereafter given, except as the same may be required by covenants of the corporation already existing, shall be for a longer period than ten years,) and all ferry leases shall be revocable by the Common Council for mismanagement or neglect to provide adequate accommodation. All persons requiring any ferry lease or franchise under the provisions of this act, shall be required to purchase, at a fair appraised valuation, the boats, buildings, and other property of the former lessor actually necessary for the purposes of such ferry. Previous notice of all sales referred to in this section, shall be given under the direction of the Comptroller for thirty days, in the newspapers employed by the Corporation.

§ 8. No bids shall be accepted from, or contract awarded to any person who is in arrears to the corporation upon debt or contract, or who is a defaulter, as security or otherwise, upon any obligation to the corporation.

§ 9. No money shall be expended by the corporation for any celebration, procession, or entertainment of any kind, or on any occasion, except for the celebration of the Anniversary of the National Independence, the 25th of November, (Evacuation day,) and the Anniversary of the Birth-day of Washington, unless by the vote of three-fourths of all the members elected in each board of the Common Council.

§ 10. No additional allowance, beyond the legal claim, under any contract with the corporation, or for any service on its account or to its employment, shall be allowed.

§ 11. The officers of the police, and policemen, shall hereafter be appointed by a Board of Commissioners, consisting of the Mayor, Recorder, and City Judge.

§ 12. All work to be done, and all supplies to be fur-

nished for the corporation, involving an expenditure of two hundred and fifty dollars, shall be by contract, founded on sealed bids or on proposals made in compliance with the public notice for the full period of ten days; and all such contracts when given, shall be given to the lowest bidder with adequate security. All such bids or proposals shall be opened by the heads of departments advertising for them in the presence of the Comptroller and such of the parties making them as may desire to be present.

§ 13. There shall be a bureau in the Department of Finance, to be called the "Auditing Bureau," and the chief officer thereof shall be "Auditor of accounts." It shall revise, audit, and settle all accounts on which the city is concerned as debtor or creditor; it shall keep an account of each claim for or against the corporation, and of the sum allowed upon each, and certify the same with reason therefor, to the Comptroller. The Comptroller shall report to the Common Council once in ninety days, the name and decision of the auditor upon the same, together with the final action of the Comptroller thereon. All monies drawn from the city treasury shall be upon vouchers for the expenditures thereof, examined and allowed by the Auditor and approved by the Comptroller.

§ 14. Every person who shall promise, offer, or give, or cause, or aid, or abet, in causing to be promised, offered, or given, or furnish, or agree to furnish, in whole or in part, to be promised, offered, or given to any member of the Common Council, or to any officer of the corporation after his election as such member, or before or after he shall have qualified and taken his seat, any money, goods, right or action, or other property, or anything of value or any pecuniary advantage, present or prospective, with intent to influence his vote, opinion, judgment, or action, on any question, matter, cause, or proceeding, which may be then pending, or may by law be brought before him in his official capacity, shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned in a state prison, for a term not exceeding ten years, or shall be fined not exceeding five thousand dollars, or both at the discretion of the court. Every officer in this section enumerated, who shall accept any such gift, or any promise, or undertaking, to make the same under any agreement or undertaking, that his vote, opinion, judgment, or action shall be influenced thereby, or shall be given in any particular manner or upon any particular side of any question, matter, cause, or proceeding then pending, or which may by law be brought before him in his official capacity, shall, upon conviction, be disqualified from holding any public office, trust, or appointment, under the charter of the city of New York, and shall forfeit his office, and shall be punished by imprisonment in a state prison not exceeding ten years, or by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or both, in the discretion of the court. Every person offending against either of the provisions of this section shall be a competent witness against any other person offending in the same transaction, and may be compelled to appear and give evidence before any Grand Jury, or in any court, in the same manner as another persons, but the testimony so given shall not be used in any prosecution or proceeding, civil or criminal, against the person so testifying.

§ 15. No contract by the Supervisors shall be valid, unless expressly authorized by statute, and such as are authorized must be made in the manner provided in the twelfth section of this act.

§ 16. All ordinary appropriations made for the support and government of the Alms House department, shall, before the same are finally paid, be submitted to the Governors of the Alms House, to a board of commissioners, consisting of the Mayor, Recorder, Comptroller, the President of the Board of Aldermen and the President of the Board of Councilmen—

—If the said commissioners approve of the appropriations, they shall report the same to the Board of Supervisors; if they shall disapprove of the same, they shall return them with their objections to the Governors of the Alms House for reconsideration; and in case the said Governors shall, upon a reconsideration, adhere by a vote of two thirds of all the governors then in office to the original appropriations, they shall return them to the Commissioners, whose duty it shall be to report to the Board of Supervisors.

§ 17. The Board of Education shall also submit in like manner all appropriations required by them to the Commissioners named in the last preceding section; and said appropriations shall be subject to all the provisions of said section, so far as the same may be applicable.

§ 18. All such parts of the Charter of the City of New York and the several acts of the Legislature amending the same, or in any manner affecting the same, as are inconsistent with this act, are hereby repealed; but so much and such parts thereof as are not inconsistent with the provisions of this law, shall not be considered as repealed, altered, or modified in any form affected thereby, but shall continue and remain in full force and effect.

§ 19. The powers now vested in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Assistant Aldermen, in granting and revoking tavern licenses, together with all other powers and Excise Commissioners, shall be henceforth vested in the Mayor, with the Aldermen and Councilmen representing the district in which the premises of the party licensed or to be licensed may be located.

§ 20. This act shall be submitted to the approval of the electors of the City and County of New York, at an

election to be held in the said City on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three. The tickets which shall be polled at such election shall contain either the words "In favor of amendments to Charter," or "Against amendments to Charter;" and if a majority of all the persons voting thereon at such election shall vote the ticket "In favor of amendments to Charter," this act shall become a law; if a majority of such electors shall vote the ticket "Against the amendments to Charter," this act shall be void.

§ 21. The Common Council are hereby authorized and directed to make all necessary arrangements, by ordinance or otherwise, for the conduct and regulation of all elections authorized under the provisions of this act, and in conformity, as far as may be, to the general election laws.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and do hereby certify the same to be a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original law.

Given under my hand and seal of office at the City of Albany, this sixteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

ARCH'D CAMPBELL,
Dep. Secretary of State.

The foregoing Act was directed to be published, once in a week, in all the Daily and Weekly Newspapers of the city, until the 7th day of June. By order of the Common Council.

ap30 tje7 D. T. VALENTINE, Clerk, C. C.

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